

Service Date: February 14, 1996

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

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IN THE MATTER OF The Application)	UTILITY DIVISION
of Project Telephone Company to)	DOCKET NO. N95.11.175
Revise its Local Exchange Tariff.)	ORDER NO. 5894

FINAL ORDER

1. On November 22, 1995 Project Telephone Company (Project) filed a new tariff to replace its local exchange tariff applicable to the exchanges of Absarokee, Belfry, Huntley, Pompeys Pillar, and Worden. On December 8, 1995 Project revised its filing to create a consolidated local exchange tariff for all of its exchanges--those listed above along with the exchanges of Crow Agency, Fort Smith, Lodge Grass, and Wyola.

2. In addition to consolidating all Project's exchanges into one local exchange tariff, the revised tariff contains a number of rate changes as well as new rates for services that previously were either unavailable or provided at no charge.

3. Project, which serves less than 5,000 customers, submitted this filing under MCA Title 69, Chapter 3, Part 9, which provides for a less stringent form of regulation for small telecommunications providers. Under this regulatory method, Project's proposed rates automatically go into effect if the Montana Public Service Commission (Commission) has not received petitions with signatures from at least 10 percent of the affected subscribers in any rate category or a petition for review from the Montana Consumer Counsel by the 60th day following notice to subscribers of the new rates. Section 69-3-907, MCA. Project mailed notice to its subscribers of the proposed rate increase on December 5, 1995.

4. Pursuant to §69-3-907, MCA, the Commission hereby certifies to Project that the Commission has not received petitions containing signatures from at least 10 percent of the affected customers in a rate category or a petition for review from the Montana Consumer Counsel.

5. Pursuant to § 69-3-907, MCA, the Commission hereby notifies Project that the proposed new rates are effective as of February 5, 1996 without Commission review.

6. At a work session held on Tuesday, January 30, 1996, the Commission voted to approve the portions of Project's revised and consolidated local exchange tariff not related to the rate increases, subject to Project making the following minor textual revisions that the Commission considers are necessary to correct errors and provide clarity:

- (a) Remove references to Centrex and Toll Pac;
- (b) Revise the descriptions of Twin Line, Home Intercom and Blocking, adding text to the Blocking description to explain Calling Number Blocking-Per Call and Caller Number Blocking-Per Line;
- (c) Include headings on tariff sheets for "Detariffed Custom Calling and CLASS Feature Rates" and "Tariffed Custom Calling and CLASS Feature Rates," include rates for such services on the appropriate page, and file these pages and the tariff sheet for Switched 56 Kbit service rates on the appropriate color pages;
- (d) Provide a revised, clearly understandable MTS Rate Discount Table and correct typographical error from MST to MTS; and
- (e) Clarify text for Customer Originated Trace.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. The Commission has authority to supervise, regulate and control public utilities. Section 69-3-102, MCA. The Commission has the authority to establish rates, tariffs and fares for the provision of regulated telecommunications service, except as limited by statute for rate regulation of small telecommunications providers. Sections 69-3-807(1) and 69-3-901, et seq., MCA.

2. Project Telephone Company provides regulated telecommunications services within the State of Montana and is a public utility under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Montana Public Service Commission. Sections 69-3-101 and 69-3-803, MCA.

3. The Commission has not received petitions requesting review of the proposed rate increases from at least 10 percent of the affected customers in a rate category or from the Montana

Consumer Counsel, and the Commission has not reviewed the proposed rates. Section 69-3-904, MCA.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The proposed rate changes as contained in the Notice dated November 22, 1995 became effective on February 5, 1996 by operation of law.
2. The other parts of Project's filing dated November 22, 1995, as revised on December 8, 1995, and not related to rate increases, are approved.
3. Project is directed to revise its tariff as necessary within 30 days to comply with the findings contained in Paragraph 6 of this order. Commission staff is hereby authorized to review and approve Project's revisions.
4. Docket No. N95.11.175 is closed.

DONE AND DATED this 30th day of January, 1996, by a 5 to 0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Chair

DAVE FISHER, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

DANNY OBERG, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathlene M. Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)

NOTE: Any interested party may request the Commission to reconsider this decision. A motion to reconsider must be filed within ten (10) days. See ARM 38.2.4806.